



Hampton Police Division Media Release

40 Lincoln Street
Hampton, VA 23669
757-727-6608



For Immediate Release

January 24, 2005

SUSPICIOUS DEATH INVESTIGATION

On January 24, 2005, at approximately 9:00 pm, the Hampton Police Division received a call indicating that an unresponsive man was inside a vehicle parked in the parking lot of 1900 Cunningham Drive, Wal-Mart. Hampton police and medics responded to the scene. Hampton medics determined that the individual was deceased.

Officers learned that the deceased, **Leon Theodore Graves, Jr.**, a 50-year-old Hampton man, had been missing from his Springdale Way home since December 7, 2004. The preliminary investigation revealed that an employee from the business noticed the vehicle in the parking lot earlier in the day and went to check on the vehicle when it had not moved from the parking lot during the course of the day. It was then that the employee discovered the deceased unresponsive in the driver's seat of the vehicle. Due to the suspicious nature of this incident, the Hampton Police Division is investigating this case as a suspicious death.

The deceased will be transported to the Norfolk Crime Lab where an autopsy will be performed to determine the exact cause of death. Additional information will be released as it becomes available.

Corporal James West will receive questions about this release at 757-727-6608.

END